

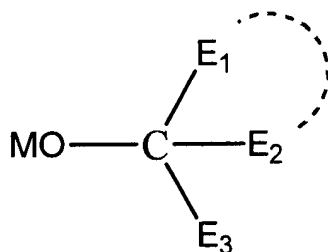
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A metal alkoxide having the formula:



wherein M is a metal;

E₁ and E₂ and the carbon atom to which they are attached define a **polycyclic** carbocyclic or heterocyclic **taxane derivative** ~~skeleton~~ containing **up to 20** ~~about 6 to 20 ring~~ atoms, the hetero atoms being oxygen; and

E₃ is hydrogen or hydrocarbon.

2. (original) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₃ is hydrogen.
3. (original) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is a Group IA, IIA or transition metal.
4. (original) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is lithium, magnesium, sodium, potassium or titanium.
5. (original) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₃ is hydrogen and M is a Group IA, IIA or transition metal.

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6. (original) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E_3 is hydrogen and M is lithium, magnesium, sodium, potassium or titanium.

Claims 7-8 (cancel)